



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

Murdock Administration Building, 18500 Murdock Circle,
Building B, Room B-106, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

<u>Board Members:</u>	<u>District:</u>
Don McCormick, Vice-Chair	District 2
Ellen Decker.....	District 3
Patrick Jurek.....	District 1
Wendy Lang.....	District 5
Stas Matias.....	District 4
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Ed Hill.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

May 4, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order:

Don McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.; announcing the new Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee member **Stas Matias, District 4**; who then introduced himself to the Committee.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Don McCormick asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call / Determination of a Quorum

Upon Secretary Bennett calling the roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.
Wendy Lang was absent.

4. Approval of Minutes

- o Approve the Minutes from April 1st, 2021

Mr. Jurek made a motion to approve the April 4, 2019 minutes, seconded by **Mr. Hill**; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

Commissioner Deutsch suggested to add the election of officers on today's agenda.

There was some discussion on the bylaws about adding the election of officer on today's agenda. The board members were all in favor of adding this change to the end of the agenda.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

None Offered.

7. New Business

None Offered.

8. Old Business:

- Access to western end of Manchester Waterway-(As of 4/27/21 no documents available to attach)
 - George Luer report – Summary by Coty Keller
 - FWC Corey Anderson (Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration Biologist) speaks on impact to fish and wildlife

Mr. McCormick asked the members if they would like to comment on the George Luer report or the Access to western end of Manchester Waterway, since there are no presentations.

Mr. Anlauf comments that some members of the committee didn't get to see the presentation from the Manchester Waterway proposal, and it was already voted on and approved by the committee. Also, if members would like an opportunity to have it presented again, then the Manchester Waterway can come in and present their proposals for the waterway.

***Mr. Jurek** made a motion to have a presentation from the Manchester Waterway Committee for the June meeting, seconded by **Mr. Hill**; the motion passed unanimously.*

- Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (START)- discuss START speaking at one of our meetings

Ms. Decker mentioned to the members that she went ahead and created strings of used oyster shells and passed them out to the 22 owners of the mini-reefs that were installed along Manasota Key. She asked the members if they still wanted to discuss START, since her agenda has been fulfilled. If they were interested, she gave 3 examples of topics that would be discussed with START:

- Putting plants around ponds
- Vertical Oyster gardens
- Bivalve plant with oyster beds

Mr. McCormick states reading from the minutes last month, it seemed like many were interested in hearing from Betty Staugler and Jennifer Hecker. He suggested to move ahead on try to schedule Ms. Staugler and Ms. Hecker.

***Ms. Decker** made a motion to have Betty Staugler to come in October and speak, seconded by **Mr. Jurek**; the motion passed unanimously.*

- SW Resiliency Compact update

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager, stated that Ms. Jubb is involved with that. As far as he is aware all parties have signed the contract. They are waiting word for the next steps.

- Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.
 - Manasota Key Beach Restoration Project
 - South Beach (Knight-Don Pedro Island) Renourishment
 - Stump Pass navigation channel project
 - Mitigation reef

Matt Logan, Public Works spoke because **Mr. Poff** was not present.

- South Beach (Knight-Don Pedro Island) Renourishment

Mr. Logan stated they have completed the Knight-Don Pedro Island Renourishment. The south portion of that was recently completed with the latest dredge and renourishment. The north beach will be done in conjunction with the Stump Pass dredging.

- Stump Pass navigation channel project

Mr. Logan commented they are proceeding with the Stump Pass project this year. Here shortly, it will be out for bid. By October, they will probably have a start date after Waterfest in November, to be on the beach in May. They will have a large construction window for all of their submittals and bids. He mentioned that **Michael Poff** can come in next month or in October, to show a presentation and give a status on their standing with the upcoming Stump Pass dredge.

- Terminal groin placement on Stump Pass

Mr. Logan mentioned the amount of interest on the performance of the terminal groin placement on Stump Pass State Park. So far, we are continuing to monitor it. One key point, that **Mr. Poff** points out in his presentation; is that immediately following the 2017 project, we had Irma pass through and dump a lot of materials into the pass. Also, **Mr. Poff** will mention that the state paid for all the sand placement and the construction of the terminal groin on the State Park. We paid very little for the 2017 project. We will continue to pay very little for any work on the State Park because as we know, they fund that at 100%.

- Mitigation reef

Mr. Logan states the Mitigation reef has been completed. He was hoping to have the final total acreage installed. We know that before the last deployment of stone, they had hit the 4.1 acers. They were required to install 3.9 acers, but because of the mythology and the unsurety of having someone out there to run the transits to get the total area of coverage. They went ahead and deployed that last load of stone, to make sure that they were good and out of the way. He hopes by the next meeting **Mr. Poff** will have the final calculations of what was installed. **Mr. Logan** has received a lot of feedback about how the reefs are loaded with fish and that it's a nice dive.

- **Parks and Natural Resources – Susie Derheimer**

- **Sea Turtles**

Susie Derheimer, Natural Resources stated that May 1st is the starting of sea turtle nesting season. On April 21st, they discovered their first nest on Stump Pass Beach State Park. Two more Logger Heads were discovered on the northern part of the Manasota Key area. We don't know about Boca yet; we have one on Don Padro and unfortunately, we do not have a monitor this year on LGI. The monitor that took over last year, did not renew her contract with Fish and Wild Life. They are still looking for a monitor on Little Gasparilla Island. On Saturday night, May 1st, they performed a lighting surveys on Manasota Key and unfortunately, they had a lot of violations. They were not as many as last year. We have established a contact list and will be contacting the people this week. In order for them to work with us and to get the lights turned off or shielded. Overall, it did look good out there. They will be going out, this coming weekend, to Palm Island, Don Padro Island and Knight Island. They do plan on performing lighting surveys on Boca and Little Gasparilla Island (LGI), it will be later in the season because we are obligated through our permits to defiantly do Manasota Key, Palm Island and Knight Island.

- **Shore Birds and Sea Birds**

Ms. Derheimer commented that the shore birds are doing great. On the following:

- Stump Pass Beach State Park
 - 57 Least Tern Nest
 - 125+ are adults
 - 1 Wilson Plovers Nest
 - 6 Oystercatchers
 - Black Skimmers are mating, no nest yet
 - Royal Terns, Gulls and 2 Marbled Godwit's have been seen
- Boca Grande
 - 54 Least Tern Nest
 - 93+ are adults
- Palm Island
 - They have yet to see the Least Tern colony return to Palm Island
 - 2 pair of Wilson Plovers

They have installed wild life cameras on Palm Island, to identify predation on the island. They have had some issues with Coyotes, which could be why the Least Terns haven't returned. So far nothing has been sighted on the cameras.

Ms. Derheimer stated they performed their sand samples on Manasota Key. The department has taken on a project where; after the renourishment they test the calcium content of the renourished sand. On Manasota Key, there are six sites. Four are within the renourished area and two within stump pass. Two out of three years of data have been collected, they are excited to see what it shows in terms of the calcium carbonate level. It's usually higher after the renourishment. Then we like to see it to decrease because it has an effect of the density of the sand. When there is there is a lot of calcium carbonate it makes it harder for the turtles to dig. That's why we like to see it go down, data is still being collected on this.

Ms. Decker inquired on the fencing around Stump Pass that protects the endangered species. It had gone out into the walking path along the water and caused the beach goers to not be able to get around it last year.

Ms. Derheimer stated that they have been pulled out. Last year, they set the fencing and then a storm came in and took the shoreline all the way to the fence line. We did move it back at that time. This year it is set back and there is room around it for the beach goers. They do have to protect a certain buffer area to the nest. Sometimes, that does encroach on where people walk, but we always make sure there is some sort of walking path.

Commissioner Deutsch asked **Ms. Derheimer** to comment on what effect did COVID have on the Sea Turtles and Shore Birds?

Ms. Derheimer answered last year we saw the most amount of people on the beaches. It's hard to say if there is a correlation with having one year of this. We did have a successful season with nesting for both sea turtles and shore birds last year. For that one year, it did not show in numbers if it had any effect on the sea turtles or shore birds. Even though there was a lot of people out there, the nests are protected. Lighting was an issue because of the new tourist that were not familiar with the sea turtles. Just to compare; last year at this time we had almost 70 violations, this year we have only 49.

Mr. McCormick asked since Little Gasparilla Island doesn't have any certified patrol monitor, does that mean the nest are not being marked?

Ms. Derheimer answered correct, it must be done on a daily basis. Since we don't have the staff, we go out once a week. However, we do not have the ability to make the call if there are nest. They are looking for a volunteer for the open position.

9. Correspondence and Communication

None offered.

10. Public Comments

Brandon Moody, Water Quality Manager, mentioned that he will be meeting with Team Punta Groda and staff in a couple of weeks. To discuss how they can work with the city in terms of water quality. Also, Punta Gorda has a list of various associations that he could possibly connect with. He plans to be in attendance of other meetings to speak on water quality and to receive feedback from the members and the public.

11. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

Mr. McCormick inquired with **County Attorney, Janette Knowlton**, about if the bylaws says anything on being able to hold an election of officers in todays meeting.

Ms. Knowlton answered yes, the Committee shall, from its members, fill any vacancy of the offices of Chairman or Vice-Chairman at any regular or special meeting. Written notice shall be mailed to each member five (5) days prior to a meeting, announcing the election of officers to fill a vacancy on the Board. She advised to put it on the June agenda and that would suffice as the notice.

There was some discussion on how many absences are allowed for the members and how many times a year they meet.

Commissioner Deutsch welcomed **Mr. Matias** aboard and thanked the board members for their efforts and services, he greatly appreciates it. He mentioned that the Legislation has passed some money for Manasota Key, however it is unclear if it has been signed yet by the Governor.

12. Member Comments

Ms. Decker commented that she attended the Red Tide Forum. One interesting thing she learned there was from Dr. Cynthia Heil, a Mote Marine scientist, recommended that all municipalities and counties should make sure to pick up the dead fish, even the residents. Apparently, karenia brevis loves dead fish. Also, at this Forum was Dr. Weisberg, a professor of University of South Florida, who did the physics of red tide. He spoke about the loop current and eddies that it creates out on the Florida shelf where the red tide likes to live. He wants to use this technology to help predict red tides.

Ms. Decker informed the committee that she checked on the construction that is going on between the Sweptson and Tom Adams bridges and discovered that the Englewood water District is building a force main.

Mr. Anlauf requests for a discussion on July's meeting to be added to the June agenda. He also requests for the water quality to be kept on the agenda.

Mr. Anlauf comments to **Mr. Moody** if you are looking for funds to do water testing, in the mid county area. He

attended last month's storm water committees budget meeting and found out they have a \$ 16 million surplus. He advised Mr. Moody that he may be able to grab some of those funds for your water quality budget.

Mr. Moody replied that he has on his calendar to attend the July meeting.

Commissioner Deutsch mentions there is an issue with boats being able to exit on the east side of the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. Boats tend to have difficulty with getting in and out of the boat launch ramp due to it filling in all the time. What happens is that it gets dredged, then it fills back in fast. He suggests for engineering to investigate the possibility for a mini groin to be placed there. It's something to look into and may save money in the long run.

Mr. Logan informed the committee that he is working with Parks and Natural Resources and the engineering department to do a study. We are repeating a 2011 study that was performed, but we are going further in depth with some additional analysis. Since we have some data from back then. We sat down with Michael Poff, who is working with us to do the study and went over the check list of what we will be looking at for this project. The portions of this study are; to maintain the Sunrise channel, to ensure a longer shelf life and how to maintain a shore line on Port Charlotte Beach. That's going to work in conjunction with some of the master planning that is going on with the Port Charlotte Beach Complex as a whole.

There was some discussion on picking up the dead fish from red tide.

Mr. McCormick gave **Commissioner Deutsch** and **Jeff Anlauf** contact information for Jim Beaver. At the last meeting they had a considerable discussion about the impact of the so called "rim" canals and the blocking of the existing creeks. Which is part of putting in a lock system. Jim Beaver, worked for SW FL Regional Planning Council, wrote not only a piece on resiliency for the City of Punta Gorda and the impact of the climate change. He is very knowledgeable about the whole district of the so called "rim" canals. He encouraged them both to speak with Jim.

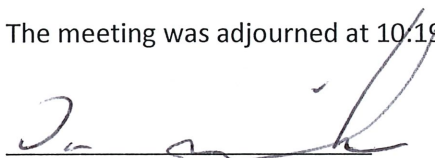
Mr. McCormick comments that they need a chairma. He explained that his plate is full and that he doesn't think it's going to be him. He encourages them to consider someone who is involved with the coastal aspects of our community and expresses how he is proud to serve as the Vice-Chair.

14. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, June 3rd, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106 Port Charlotte unless otherwise announced.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.



Don McCormick, Vice-Chair